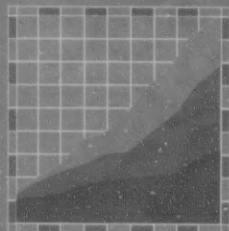


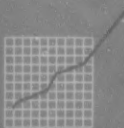
Statistics Weekly

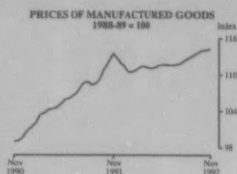
Thursday, 28 January 1993



The week in statistics ...

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- ☐ Home finance: the trend has peaked 4
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Manufactures' prices edge up

The price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.1 per cent between October and November 1992 and by 2.4 per cent in the year to November.

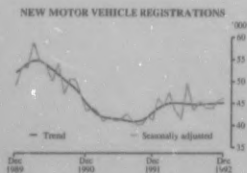
In November there were small increases in prices for about one-third of the items in the index. The main contributors to the increase in the all manufacturing index were meat, bread and milk.

These increases were partially offset by decreases for about one-quarter of the items in the index. The most significant decreases were recorded for silver, lead and zinc smelting, motor vehicles, and nickel smelting and refining.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS
NOVEMBER 1992
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	-0.3	6.9
Food and beverages	0.9	4.2
Transport equipment	-0.3	2.2
Other industrial machinery	0.0	1.7
Basic metal products	-1.2	1.4
Chemical products	0.0	1.0
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.9
Fabricated metal products	0.1	0.6
Total manufacturing	0.1	2.4

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.



Flat end to flat year for cars

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 0.1 per cent in December, despite a rise of 1.4 per cent in seasonally adjusted registrations.

As the chart opposite shows, the trend estimates of registrations remained flat for most of calendar year 1992, but the December figure is 5.1 per cent higher than the December 1991 estimate.

In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for December 1992 rose by 10.1 per cent, from 44,550 vehicles in November 1992 to 49,040 in December. Numbers of passenger vehicles rose from 36,812 in November to 41,051 in December 1992; other vehicles (excluding motor cycles, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers) also showed an increase, from 7,738 to 7,989 vehicles.

Continued ...

In December unadjusted registrations fell in New South Wales and Northern Territory (1.6% and 8.4% respectively) while all other States recorded increases. Tasmania recorded the highest percentage increase (80.4%) followed by Victoria (17.7%), South Australia (16.1%), Western Australia (16.0%) and Queensland (13.2%). The Australian Capital Territory recorded an increase of 2.3 per cent during the month.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

Accommodation industry grows despite slip in occupancy rates

Average room occupancy for hotels and motels in Australia was 51.7 per cent in September quarter 1992 compared with 52.1 per cent in September quarter 1991.

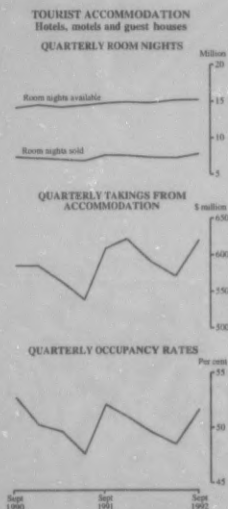
Demand for accommodation in hotels and motels increased by 2.9 per cent to 7.8 million room nights occupied in September quarter 1992 compared with 7.6 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. However, an increase of 3.0 per cent in rooms available over the period was slightly higher than the increase in demand.

This followed three successive quarters in which room night sales matched or exceeded growth in the number of rooms available.

Increases in room occupancy rate were recorded only in the Australian Capital Territory with a 1.5 percentage point increase and in Queensland with a 1.2 percentage point increase over the same period in 1991. The largest fall, from 51.8 per cent to 50.2 per cent was recorded in New South Wales.

Nationally, guest arrivals increased by 3.7 per cent and average length of stay remained steady at 2.0 days.

Takings from accommodation increased by 2.0 per cent to \$620.9 million, while the average takings per room night decreased from \$80 to \$79. Over the same twelve month period, the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.8 per cent.



TOURIST ACCOMMODATION
Hotels, motels and guest houses

	September quarter		Percentage change
	1991	1992	
Rooms available ('000)	160	165	3.0
Room nights occupied ('000)	7,615	7,836	2.9
Room occupancy rate (%)	52.1	51.7	n.a.
Guest arrivals ('000)	6,712	6,962	3.7
Average length of stay (days)	2.0	2.0	0.0
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	608	621	2.0

The number of holiday flats, units and houses available Australia wide for short-term letting increased by 1.0 per cent, while the total unit nights occupied was virtually unchanged. The unit occupancy rate therefore fell from 54.4 to 53.7 per cent. Accommodation takings increased by 1.4 per cent to \$92.6 million.

For caravan parks, there was a 0.3 per cent increase in total capacity, to 287,182 on-site van, unit and site nights available, of which 17.0 per cent were occupied by long-term residents. Takings from accommodation increased by 6.6 per cent to \$98.8 million.

Visitor hostels (backpacker establishments) recorded a bed occupancy rate of 43.7 per cent in September quarter 1992, compared with 42.4 per cent in September quarter 1991, and takings from accommodation of \$11.2 million. Queensland (55.8%) and the Northern Territory (54.2%) had the highest occupancy rates, while Queensland accounted for 39.6 per cent of the takings from accommodation.

For further information, order the publication *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (8635.0), or contact John Alexander on (07) 252 6215.

Home finance: the trend has peaked

The provisional trend estimate for the number of dwelling units financed for owner occupation declined in November 1992 by 0.5 per cent. The trend estimates now show this series peaking in September 1992, although it should be noted that the November estimate was 24.1 per cent higher than that for November 1991.

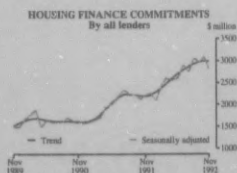
In the key purpose of loan category, construction of dwellings, the trend estimates show this series continuing to increase although at a slower rate of increase. The November 1992 estimate was up 0.8 per cent on October 1992.

The other two categories, purchase of newly erected dwellings and purchase of established dwellings, are both now trending down, the former having peaked in June 1992 and the latter in September 1992.

In original terms the number of dwelling units financed in November 1992 was 35,586, a small decrease of 0.2 per cent on October 1992. Seasonally adjusted, the number of dwelling units financed in November 1992 was 34,574, down 9.9 per cent on October 1992.

Although the number of dwelling units financed is now trending down the trend estimates for the value of housing finance continues to rise, albeit at a slower rate — up 0.1 per cent in November 1992. This in part reflects the increase in loan size which is now required to finance the construction or purchase of a dwelling.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact John Carson on (06) 252 7110 or Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7117.



The labour market — 1992 in review

The Australian labour market weakened further during 1992, particularly for full-time jobs. Compared with 1991, average employment fell by 19,500 (0.3%) with full-time employment decreasing by 116,800 (1.9%). Male employment fell by 37,400 (0.8%) with a fall of 85,200 (2.1%) in full-time employment being partly offset by a rise of 47,800 (11.8%) in part-time employment. For females, total employment rose by 17,900 (0.6%) with full-time employment falling by 31,600 (1.7%).

The average number of unemployed people in 1992 rose by 112,100 (13.7%) to 933,100 mainly due to an increase of 106,300 (15.6%) in the number of people seeking full-time work. The rise in unemployment was associated with an increase in the average unemployment rate from 9.6 per cent in 1991 to 10.8 per cent in 1992.

These findings are drawn from the monthly Labour Force Survey, full details of which are published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Annual averages

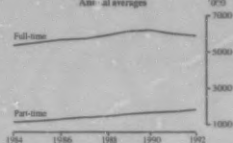
	1990	1991	1992	Change 1991 to 1992	
				('000)	per cent
Employment ('000)	7,872.0	7,713.2	7,693.7	-19.5	-0.3
Full time	6,209.0	5,999.1	5,882.3	-116.8	-1.9
Part time	1,663.0	1,714.1	1,811.4	97.3	5.7
Unemployment ('000)	587.1	821.0	933.1	112.1	13.7
Full time	467.5	680.9	787.2	106.3	15.6
Part time	119.6	140.1	145.9	5.8	4.2
Labour force ('000)	8,459.1	8,534.1	8,626.8	92.7	1.1
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	9.6	10.8	n.a.	1.2 pts
Participation rate (%)	65.8	63.2	63.0	n.a.	-0.3 pts

Other comparisons of the 1992 labour market with 1991 include:

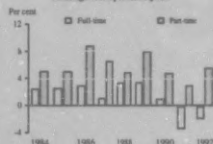
- The average unemployment rate for males rose by 1.5 percentage points to 11.4 per cent and for females, it rose by 0.8 percentage points to 10.0 per cent.
- The average participation rate for males fell from 74.8 per cent to 74.3 per cent while for females, it fell from 52.0 per cent to 51.9 per cent.
- Although males averaged 25 per cent of total part-time employment in 1992, they accounted for 49 per cent of the increase in part-time employment between 1991 and 1992.
- The average duration of unemployment increased from 41 weeks in 1991 to 50 weeks in 1992.
- The average number of long-term unemployed (i.e. persons unemployed for 52 weeks or more) increased by 60 per cent to 313,000, following an increase of 58 per cent between 1990 and 1991.
- There was an increase of 25,600 in the number of job losers. In contrast, the number of people who left their job voluntarily fell by 17,000.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.

EMPLOYED PERSONS
Annual averages



EMPLOYED PERSONS
Change from previous year



In brief ...

□ Retail trade

Sales of the food and groceries commodity group were the largest component of turnover of retail and selected services establishments in 1988-89 and 1989-90. For 1988-89 the food and groceries commodity group accounted for \$33,093 million or 41.4 per cent of total Australian turnover. Sales increased to \$37,017 million or 42.7 per cent of total Australian turnover in 1989-90.

Of the other major commodity groups, clothing and footwear accounted for 15.3 per cent of total turnover in 1988-89 and 14.0 per cent in 1989-90, while household goods accounted for 13.6 per cent and 12.4 per cent in 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

Source: Retail Trade, Commodity Details 1988-89 and 1989-90, Australia (8512.0).

□ Award rates of pay

Over the 12 months to November 1992, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 0.7 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 0.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively.

The largest movements over the period for full-time adult males occurred in the wholesale and retail trade industry (2.0%) and in the transport and storage industry (1.0%). For full-time adult females the largest movements occurred in the wholesale and retail trade industry (1.7%) and in the recreation, personal and other services industry (1.0%).

In terms of occupation groups, the largest increases for full-time adult males were for paraprofessionals (1.3%) and salespersons and personal service workers (1.2%). For full-time adult females the largest increase was for salespersons and personal service workers (1.1%).

Source: Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, November 1992 (6312.0).

□ Demography — New South Wales

Of the 87,367 births registered in 1991 to NSW mothers, 53,698 (61.5%) were to residents of the Sydney Statistical Division (SD). The highest birth rate for a statistical division was 18.7 (births per 1,000 population) in North Western (SD), while the lowest birth rate was in Richmond-Tweed (SD).

Of the 42,467 deaths of NSW residents which were registered in 1991, 25,324 (59.6%) were residents of the Sydney Statistical Division. The highest death rate for a statistical division was 9.8 (deaths per 1,000 population) in Far West (SD), while the lowest death rate was 6.8 in Sydney (SD).

Source: Demography, New South Wales, 1991 (3311.1).

□ Demography — Queensland

The estimated resident population of Queensland at 31 December 1991 was 2,999,904, an increase of 67,703 over the December 1990 figure of 2,932,201. This represents an annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent, the second highest of all States and Territories.

Queensland's population has experienced strong positive annual growth rates since the end of World War II. The high point was reached in 1989 when net interstate migration peaked at 47,316 persons.

Source: Demography, Queensland, 1991 (3311.3).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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Editor

(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
28 January 1993

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 9 February

January

- 27 Manufacturing Production, Australia, December 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.70)
- 28 Consumer Price Index, December Quarter 1992 (6401.0; \$11.70)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, November 1992 (6411.0; \$10.70)
Import Price Index, Australia, November 1992 (6414.0; \$8.20)

February

- 2 Balance of Payments, Australia, December 1992 (5301.0; \$16.30)
Building Approvals, Australia, December 1992 (8731.0; \$13.30)

Selected releases 20 to 26 January

General

- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., January 1993 (1304.0; \$20.40)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, January 1993 (1307.3; \$6.60)
- Northern Territory Business Indicators, January 1993 (1307.7; \$5.00)

Social statistics

- National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, WA, 1989-90 (4375.5; \$80.00) — *new issue*
- National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, Tas., 1989-90 (4375.6; \$80.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Personal Finance, Aust., November 1992 (5642.0; \$6.10)
- Lease Finance, Aust., November 1992 (5644.0; \$6.10)

Labour statistics and prices

- Labour Force, SA, November 1992 (6201.4; \$16.30)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, November 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, November 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, November 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, November 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, September 1992 (8741.1; \$10.70)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, September 1992 (8741.2; \$10.70)

Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, December 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	Nov. 92	\$m	-1,673	-1,603	8.2	-8.3
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-251	-41	86.7	4.7
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-431	-314	31.9	-22.2
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,119	5,107	9.1	13.7
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5,370	-5,148	3.2	13.5
Net foreign debt	30 Sept. 92	\$m	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7
New capital expenditure at 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0
New motor vehicle registrations	Dec. 92	no.	49,040	46,323	1.4	12.5
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Nov. 92	no.	14,600	14,086	1.0	22.1
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,014	1,968	-1.4	22.2
Building work done at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	"	3,919	3,805	-0.1	0.5
Prices						
Consumer price index (d)	Sept. qtr 92	1987-90 = 100.0	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Nov. 92	1988-89 = 100.0	114.2	n.a.	0.1	2.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries (d)	Oct. 92	1984-85 = 100.0	127.8	n.a.	0.7	7.7
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	Dec. 92	'000	7,750.1	7,660.6	0.3	0.3
Participation rate †	"	%	63.4	62.7	0.2	-0.9
Unemployment rate †	"	%	11.3	11.3	0.0	-0.4
Job vacancies	Nov. 92	'000	29.2	30.2	12.5	17.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.20	1.13	2.2	5.9
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	June 92	million	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Oct. 92	'000	229	222	2.1	6.4
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Aug. 92	\$	585.80	n.a.	-0.3	3.2
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Nov. 92	% per annum	5.85	n.a.	0.0	-2.40
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.15	n.a.	0.30	-0.65
Exchange rate — \$US	Nov. 92	per \$A	0.6902	n.a.	-3.6	-12.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 28 January 1993.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 92	-21.5	-10.5	-5.7	-30.8	-3.4	-13.4	n.a.	n.a.	-14.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Nov. 92	2.5	3.5	8.9	-1.8	11.0	6.6	n.a.	6.6	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations†	Dec. 92	23.6	7.5	2.3	19.9	14.1	-9.8	14.1	8.7	12.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Nov. 92	29.1	25.1	10.6	3.5	31.1	36.1	31.8	106.7	22.1
Value of total building work done	Sept. qtr 92	-7.6	-5.1	12.5	2.4	12.5	-9.5	26.6	11.2	0.0
Employed persons*	Dec. 92	-1.7	-1.2	2.1	0.1	0.7	-1.6	0.0	6.6	0.3
Capital city consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Aug. 92	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population	June 92	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	2.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

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